12/3/93

Dear Harold -

This is dated 12/3, but won't go out until Monday the 5th. Received your letter dated 11/27. Just to answer you first: RE: Retrieval services. I have none. I would have access to tapes of anything Disney does, but that's about it. I saw most of the specials, but did not tape them. However, I am sure someone in the assassination research community would have made tapes and would make them available to you. I do remember the CBS special had a place to write for transcripts as did the PBS special. Of the two, the PBS one is the one I think you should put first. I would be curious to see or read a rebuttal from a knowledgeable person on this. The Posner thing with Cyril Wecht was on CNN. It was a show called CROSSFIRE (I don't know if this show makes transcripts available.) With his greasy hair and mustache, Posner looks shifty of TV. That doesn't help him. What did help him was Cyril Wecht. First of all, if you've never seen CROSSFIRE, it's an hour of people screaming at the top of their lungs, interrupting each other and each person tries to outscream the other. The hosts are Pat Buchanan from the right and Michael Kinsey from the left. They also scream alot. Pat Buchanan's only question to Wecht was if Lee Harvey Oswald didn't do it, who did? Kinsey was of the school that the Warren Report was flawed but Oswald was probably the lone gunman. Anyway, Wecht has become a caricature of himself. At least in REASONABLE DOUBT he presents a cogent arguement. On CROSSFIRE, when he wasn't being interrupted, he was interrupting himself, never finishing a thought and yelling, Awww c'mon" at Posber. He did manage to get the better of Posner on the single bullet theory, but that's not hard considering the implausability of the magic bullet. But even that deteriorated into a ridiculous debate over whether Wecht had known about Connally's lapel flapping long before Posner revealed it in his book (through a computer enhanced Zapruder film). Posner insists that the flapping of the lapel proves the single bullet theory and that Wecht knewof it in the late '70's, but didn't say so because it proves the single bullet theory. Wecht said he wasn't aware of the lapel flapping (it was reported in the Rockefeller Commission Report or something from those investigations). My question, if this lapel flapping was known about in the late 70's, how can Posner claim it is new evidence?

As for the CBS special, it was what they've been doing every few years since the 60's. The twist here was that the CIA and FBI held things back from the Commission. Hell, you've been saying that since your first writings. It's taken 30 years for the media to admit that. Maybe in another 30, they'll consider the possibility of Oswald being a patsy. In regard to Oswald's innocense, there's a film clip from the so-called press conference with Oswald on Friday night where he is asked if he killed the President. He responds, "No. I have not been charged with that. The first I heard about it was when a reporter asked me in the hall." He is then informed by the questioner that he has been charged with the murder of the president. At this point, Oswald noticeably blanches as if he can't believe it. If you look at some of those clips of Oswald and just consider the possibility that he was not the assassin, you can see this is a man caught in something that he knows he has no control over. He knows he's being railroaded and constantly points it out. There's a clip I had never seen before where he's arguing about how he was set up in the line-ups (I knew he had complained but had never seen the footage) and it's truly amazing that he had the guts to do this.

Incidentally, most of the JFK specials assassination and others did very poorly in the ratings (I've included VARIETY and THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER with the ratings). The CBS special was beaten by The Waltons' Thanksgiving Special. And the Marina Oswald biopic did better than CBS's special (still not great numbers).

The most absurd thing I saw on the assassination was a Larry King Show on CNN with guests Gaeton Fonzi and some college kid whose name I believe is Cal Korf. He has put together all this information on the assassination in a computer program he is marketing. He claims it proves Oswald's guilt yet he mentioned that several years ago he found an assassin on the grassy knoll by analyzing one of the photos (maybe it was the Moorman poloraid). He now claims he was mistaken on that. Anyway, Larry King, who is an ignoramous to start with, states he has not read Fonzi's book. So he has no clue as to what Fonzi's book is about. Fonzi is there to talk about one aspect of his investigation of Maurice Bishop for the Congressional Assassinations Committee. Of course, the mention of Maurice Bishop has King's eye's twirling because he's lost. He has no background data. He hasn't even had a staff do research. So he's go this Kal Corf guy talking about the magic bullet and how it links up to Oswald's rifle and all the typical crap you hear in these discussions. And then for rebuttals King goes to Fonzi. All he can say is, "I don't know about that. That was not the area of my investigation." Fonzi tries to get back onto his investigation. First off, Fonzi is not good on TV and not all that articulate. In addition, he's getting pretty deep into matters that most viewers don't know about and can't understand. There was no question that Larry King didn't understand. He just kept asking (much like Pat Buchanan with Cyril Wecht), "who do you think killed Kennedy?" Meanwhile, Corf is into Connally's jacket lapel flapping and claiming that JFK's bunched up jacket is the reason the bullet hole on the back is lower that the Warren Report. Fonzi didn't even say the autopsy photos show the bullet hole was down on the back, not in the rear of the neck. So anyone who didn't know the evidence would have thought that Cal Korf had outpointed Fonzi. And it turns out Korf did a lot of the computer work for Posner's book. It was a total joke and Larry King is a lightweight moron.

Oddly enough, none of L.A. paper or the New York Times reported the story about the release of the LBJ-Hoover tapes from the LBJ Library. This was reported by ABC and Nightline. Maybe the Washington Post covered it. I'm sure a Texas paper would have had it. So, I have no clipping of that. What do you make of it? It was a strange conversation. The first thing LBJ asks Hoover is if any shots were fired at him. Then he asks a couple times whether Connally was being fired at or if he was hit by accident. I don't know what's behind this, but it sounds like he and Connally had enemies in Texas and LBJ was clearly frightened that the bullets were meant for Connally and him. Hoover assures LBJ that this is not the case. He goes on to descrbe three shots and three hits (no mention of a missed shot or a magic bullet). According to Hoover, kennedy is hit in the back, Connally is hit by the second bullet and the third hits Kennedy in the head. Now, the interesting part. Hoover tells LBJ that an undamaged bullet rolled out of Kennedy's head (I assume he's talking about the autopsy). I don't know if he's confusing that with the stretcher bullet or what. I know there is a receipt for a missile at the autopsy that was never accounted for. But there is no way that a bullet would be undamaged after hitting Kennedy in the head. And it just rolled out onto the autopsy table? So, I don't know what that's all about.

I would urge you to get a transcript of those conversations from the LBJ Library. They were just released and Nightline covered it on November 29th and 30th.

You mention John Newman and his impressive work in your letter. I am not familar with him. Who is he?

I'm including the rest of the articles from the 30th anniversary in here. I've also included the past week's DOONESBURY that was about the Assassination Convention in Dallas. No articles on this locally or in the N.Y. Times or U.S.A. Today. A friend told me there was a piece in THE NEW REPUBLIC on it, but I haven't seen it, He's supposed to bring it to me and I'll send you a copy.

Not much else to report. I'm glad you had a nice Thanksgiving. Mine was very nice to. Spent it with the family and some friends and made it a point not to eat myself into a state of somnambulance this year. I achieved my goal and felt much better for it. Any more on your book and possible publishers? I know the situation is frustrating for you. As a person interested in this matter, it is frustrating for me, too. It has been too long since a responsible source has been heard from. POST MORTEM was quite a while back and a lot has happened. Meanwhile the public gets information or dhould I say disinformation from the likes of Posner and Livingstone. Livingstone's description of the plot and plotters sound like the ravings of a paranoid maniac. And the recently released LBJ-Hoover tape shoots his theory right in the foot. Of course, he'll suggest that the tape was an act to take the heat off of LBJ as a major plotter. His chapter on the phonying up of the Zapruder film is as far fetched as the Lifton book.

Well, if I don't write before the holidays have a nice Hannukah/Christmas and a happy New Year. I wish you all the best in the coming year and hope to see a book from you. I don't mean to be out of line here, but if there is any way I could read some of the unpublished material, it would mean a lot to me. I can xerox it or pay for the xeroxing or whatever. If not, being a writer, I can understand. Take care and I hope you are feeling okay.

Best,

Robert Bruce
13237 Morrison Street
Sherman Oaks, CA. 91423